

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 13642 101238Z

44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 127266

R 101145Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7342

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, TH, US

SUBJ: NEW THAI AMBASSADORS TO U.S. AND U.N.

1. BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS JULY 10 THAT PRACHA KUNAKASEM, PRESENT HEAD OF THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CABINET AS THAILAND'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS. PRACHA AND OTHER SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THIS APPOINTMENT. PRACHA WILL BE REPLACED IN HIS PRESENT POST BY AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER AND FORMER PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR PRIME MINISTER SANYA.

2. PRACHA HAS STUDIED IN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES (YALE), AND HAS SERVED IN CARIO AND AS CONSUL GENERAL IN HONG KONG. UNTIL THE RECENT INCREASE IN THAILAND'S CONTACTS WITH PRC, PRACHA WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING CHINA-WATCHERS. HE HAS BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF MANY OFFICERS OF THE U.S. MISSION IN BANGKOK AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN RESOLVING ANUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN. HIS MAJOR TASK IN NEW YORK WIL PROBABLY BE TO INCREASE THAILAND'S CONTACTS WITH THE "THIRD WORLD", BUT WE BELIEVE USUN WILL FIND HIM COMPLETELY APPROACH-

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 13642 101238Z

ABLE AND GENERALLY COOPERATIVE.

3. THE BANGKOK PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT CURRENT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHAEN WANNAMETHI HAS BEEN APPROVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. PHAEN TOLD US JULY 10 THAT THESE REPORTS ARE NOT CORRECT. HE CONFIRMED THAT AMBASSADOR ANAN'S ASSIGNMENT TO WASHINGTON WILL PROBABLY TERMINATE WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT SAID NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING HIS REPLACEMENT. PHAEN, WHO HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THE MINISTRY, SAID HE DOES EXPECT A OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT PROBABLY NOT TO THE UNITED STATES. CURRENT SPECULATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS THAT PHAEN WILL TO TO BONN. THAI AMBASSADOR O-WAT SUTHIWAT-NARUAPUT IN NEW DELHI AND SOMPONG SUCHARITKUN IN TOKYO ARE RUMORED TO BE IN THE RUNNING FOR WASHINGTON. WHILE NO FIRM INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, WE BELIEVE THE ODDS ARE THAT ANAN WILL BECOME THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO13642  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750238-0742  
**From:** BANGKOK  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW THAI AMBASSADORS TO U.S. AND U.N.  
**TAGS:** PDIP, TH, US, UN, (PRACHA KUNAKASEM), (PHAEN WANNAMETHI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006